

BATTERY A'S ARMORY, ON GRAND AVENUE AND HICKORY, REPRESENTS THE HIGHEST TYPE OF NATIONAL GUARD BUILDING IN WESTERN AMERICA

Possesses Every Convenience for Military Purposes Besides Many Features of a Modern Clubhouse.

ARMORY ABOUT COMPLETED.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.

The armory of Battery A, on Grand avenue and Hickory street, though not yet completed, represents the highest type of a National Guard building west of the Mississippi River. Experts who have examined it say that it is equal in many respects to the splendid armories in New York and other Eastern cities.

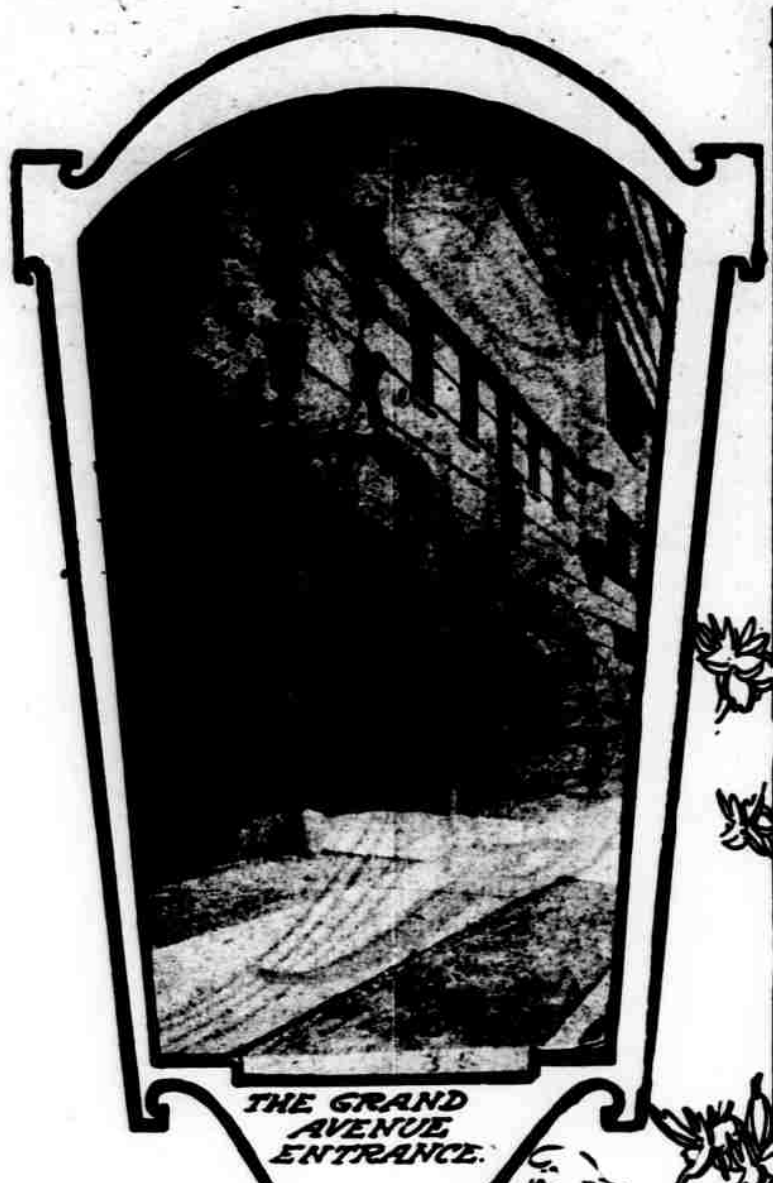
Besides possessing every convenience needed for military purposes, it is an ornament to the city and is in a way a clubhouse for the active and associate members of the crack artillery organization.

The plans of the armory include a headquarters and large drill arena in the rear. Up to date all efforts have been concentrated on the headhouse that is, the armory proper, fronting on Grand avenue. This structure is practically completed, though not furnished throughout, and lacking permanent stairways and plastering in several of its apartments.

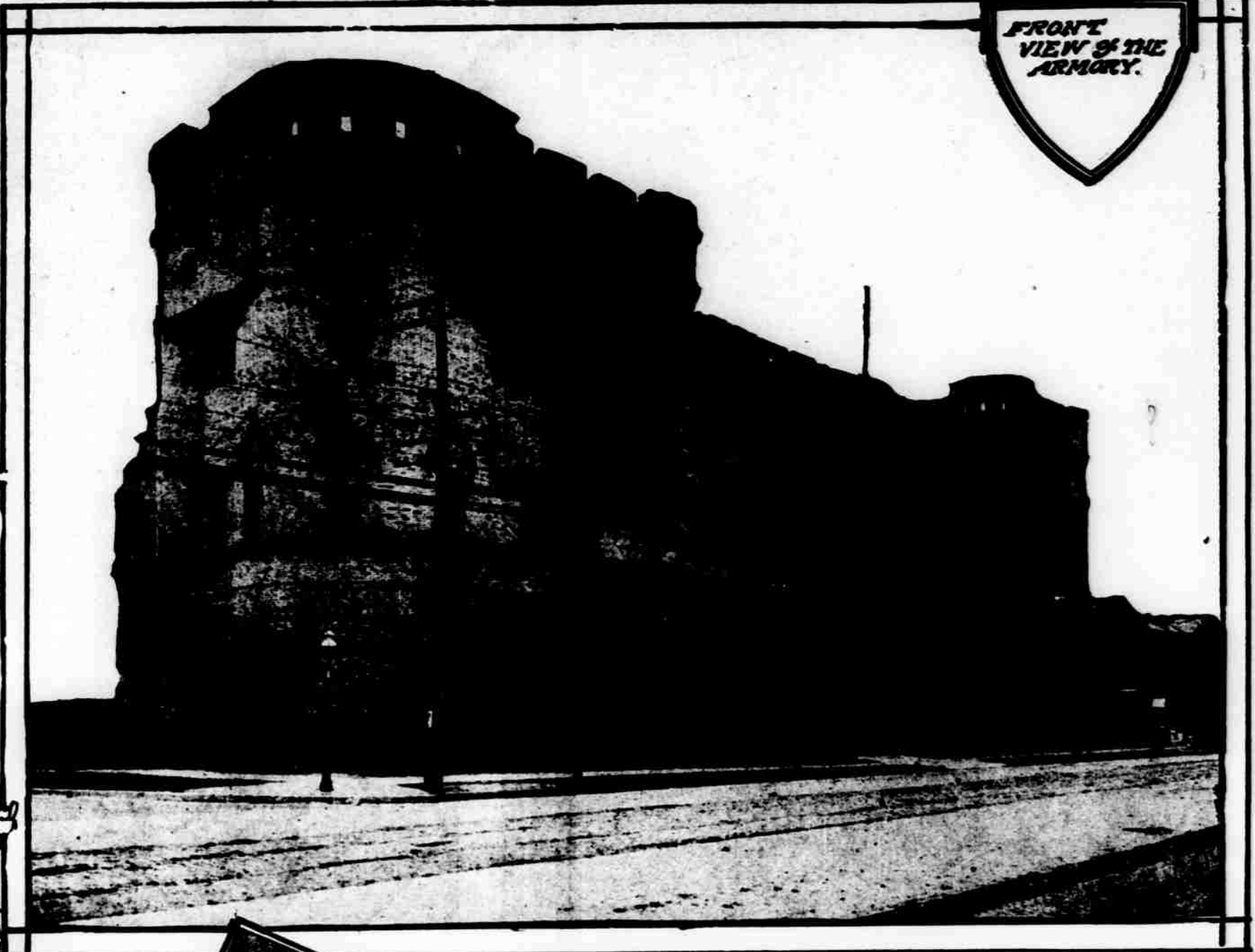
Recently there was installed in the building a modern and model heating apparatus. The heating plant is located in the basement under the south end. From it steam and hot-water pipes radiate to every room and corridor in the building. It furnishes hot water for the shower baths and stationary washstands. The heating system is by means of direct radiation.

At the present time the battery includes about eighty active members. The desire is to raise this to 125 men. Enrollment is open to men between the ages of 18 and 40 years. To join, one has simply to make application on any Tuesday evening at the armory.

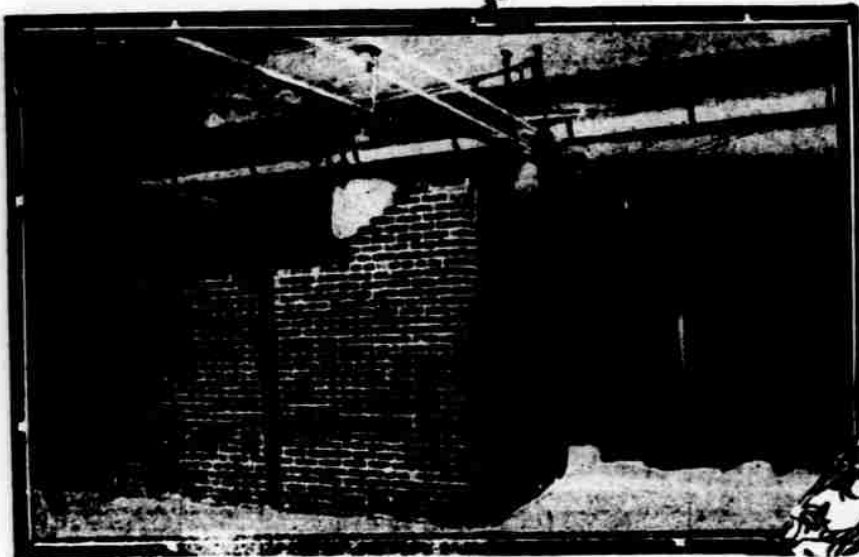
When plans for the armory were drawn



THE GRAND AVENUE ENTRANCE.



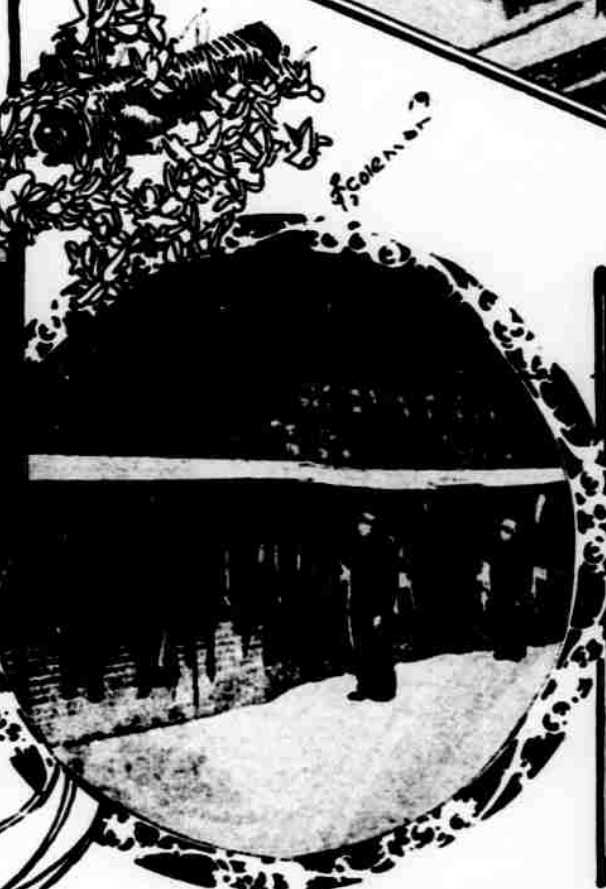
FRONT VIEW OF THE ARMORY.



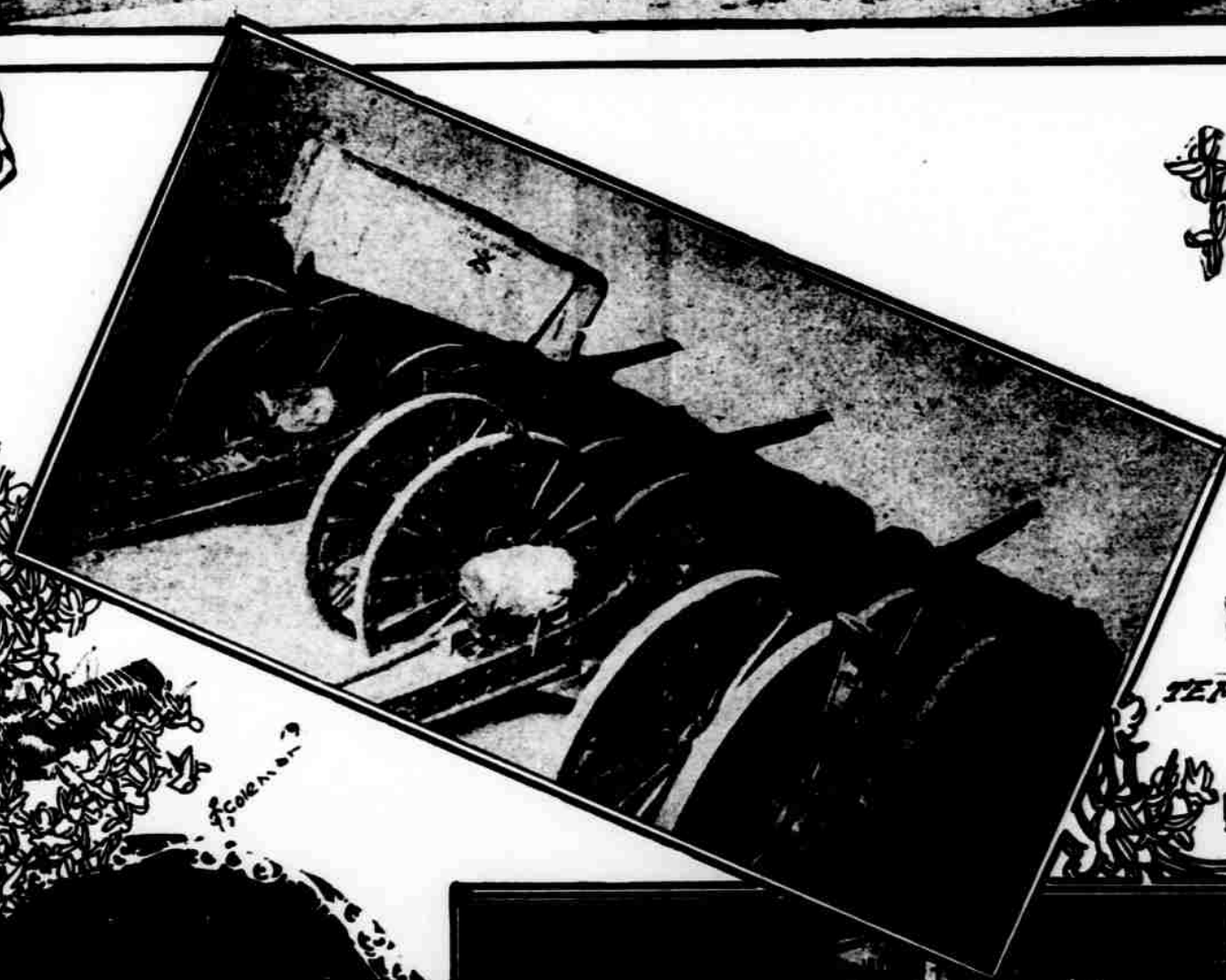
HEATING PLANT



FIRST SERGEANT'S ROOM



HARNESS ROOM



TEMPORARY GUN PARK



QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT'S DEPARTMENT

advantage was taken of experience of other National Guard organizations throughout the country, and every convenience and element which would tend to add strength and utility to the building was incorporated.

The structure is three stories high and masterfully constructed of brown pressed brick. At either end is a semicircular tower, which commands the entire facade. The only entrance is a wide, arched portal in the center of the front wall. This is protected by a heavy oak door.

HAS EVERY CONVENIENCE.

The arch runs clear through the headhouse, bisecting the lower floor, and opening into the drill arena. Through this passageway artillery may easily drive at a gallop. The front windows of the lower floor are placed high up and are mere slits in the masonry.

At the south end of the lower floor is a large apartment, about 30 feet long, which is used as a harness room. On racks along the east side of this apartment are hung some seventy-five saddles and bridles and sixty sets of artillery harness of modern pattern. In addition, there are thirty-two sets of old-style harness, used on the muzzle-loading cannon formerly the equipment of the battery.

Next to the harness room is the smithy, a little apartment fitted up with bellows, anvils, tools and all the necessary implements for making and mending, and also for shoeing horses.

On the opposite side of the dividing arch is the stair well, leading to the upper floors, toilet and wash rooms, and a large rectangular apartment, which is used temporarily as a gun park for the cannon, carriage and horse weapons of the battery. When the drill shed is completed this ordinance will be parked there.

A temporary wooden stairway leads to the upper floors. Later this will be replaced with marble steps. The floors on the first story, as in nearly every part of the building, are of cement. Throughout the construction is absolutely fireproof. On the second floor there is a hallway directly over the arched entrance. On this floor, on the south, the great parlor, or assembly room. This is a big, roomy, light apartment furnished in a most attractive manner, and decorated with trophies and belongings which the organization has accumulated during years. There are numerous comfortable chairs, tables, cases full of books on military and historical subjects, a piano, and endless other details, which go to make up an attractive clubhouse. In the center of the room is a large table, made of a solid piece of mahogany, which was brought from the

UPPER FLOOR ARRANGEMENTS.

South of the assembly room are the quarters of the officers and the office of the battery commander. There is a lock-stom for the officers, also dressing-rooms. The captain's room is in the south tower. A part of one of these rooms has been furnished.

On the north of the hallway is the first sergeant's office and noncommissioned officers' locker and dressing-room. Both of these rooms contain stationary washstands and are completely furnished.

The Quartermaster Sergeant's domain lies next to the first sergeant's office. This is the storeroom for all personal equipment of the artillerymen. There are over 100 sets of lockers, which were formerly the property of the city, containing everything from shelter tents to shoestrings.

On the north end of the hallway is the corner in the quartermaster's room, and it is here that all repairing and altering of uniforms is done.

On the third floor the entire south end of the building is occupied by the locker-room for the enlisted men. There are installed at present 120 lockers, and 120 more can be added by the construction of a balcony, for which provision has been made. The lockers range around the walls on three sides of the apartment. They have glass doors, so that they may be inspected by the officers without being opened. Each man is assigned a locker, to which he has the key. His drill uniform and whatever else he desires to keep at the Armory is thus secure.

The center of the apartment is occupied by glass cases, extending its full length. In these are kept the battery's medals and banners.

On drill nights the men first assemble in the locker-room, where they don their uniforms before responding to assembly call in the drill arena. From a military standpoint it is one of the most important rooms in the armory, and one in which battery members take special pride.

The north end of the third floor contains the shower-baths and a recreation room, which later on will be fitted up with billiard and pool tables for use of the citizen soldiers.

From the third floor a stairway leads to the roof, which, on summer nights, is a popular place with the battery members. Both towers project somewhat above the roof line. In the north tower is located the magazine, while in the south are the quarters of the armory custodian.

NEED \$40,000 TO COMPLETE.

Up to date, about \$40,000 have been spent to bring the armory to its present state of completion. It is estimated that about \$60,000 more will be required to wall in the drill arena and roof it over.

The money so far spent has been raised among business corporations of St. Louis, their contributions having been made in proportion to their size and capital. There have been no large donations to the build-

ing fund. It is an interesting fact and one showing the interest and loyalty of the members, that \$5,000 was contributed by men now belonging to or who have formerly been members of the battery.

Steps to build the new armory were first taken in April, 1896, by J. R. C. Lucas, Captain F. M. Rumbold, A. L. Shapleigh, Charles H. Turner and James Bannerman. An organization, known as the St. Louis Light Battery Armory Association, was formed, which set immediately about raising funds.

The officers of the association now are: H. K. Potter, president; William F. Nolker, vice president; A. L. Shapleigh, treasurer, and F. M. Rumbold, secretary. The Board of Directors includes the officers and Breckenridge Jones, George C. Hitchcock, Charles H. Huttig and J. R. C. Lucas.

Ever since its organization the battery has been the most representative body of militia in Missouri. It has responded promptly both in times of trouble, or when needed to take part in pageant or parade. It was the only National Guard organization of the State to leave the country during the Spanish-American War.



PARLOR AND ASSEMBLY ROOM.

JAPANESE TABLE DECORATIONS.

Umbrella Bereft of Its Paper Cover May Be Effectively Used as a Center Floral Piece.

With the news of Fort Arthur's surrender come timely suggestions for Japanese table decorations, which are being employed to an increased extent, notwithstanding the fact that hostesses have been using the Japanese idea for some months past.

Ingenuity in arranging such decoration must take the place of new materials except in the case of Japanese favors, which are obtainable in constantly changing forms and fancies and do not lack the charm of novelty. A late design for dinner table adornment is a Japanese umbrella bereft of its paper cover and used as a center floral piece.

The effect is had by trimming the "rib" with artificial cherry blossoms, while from each point depends a gay lantern, from which a small electric light gleams brightly.

Small electric bulbs may be arranged along the rod and among the blossoms in which the umbrella case is embedded.

In order to fasten the umbrella securely, flat strips of wood may be screwed against the handle, acting as braces, or the umbrella handle may be thrust through a hole cut from a block of wood sufficiently heavy to act as a base.

Natural flowers may be substituted for the cherry blossoms, if preferred, and one of the prettiest arrangements shown was that of combined pink and white roses with smilax.

In this instance bunches of roses took the place of the lanterns. Smaller umbrellas used in this way are a pretty decoration for tables at a child's party. Three or four small tables are used and a different flower scheme for each is employed.

Another quaint idea for juvenile parties is the distribution of favors or low-work and decorated with flowers. The interior is lighted with tiny electric bulbs and a little girl seated within presents the favors from baskets which are handed to her by an attendant. This is a pretty way, too, of distributing cotton favors. If boys are to be the lucky ones who carry the chair, they may be dressed in keeping with the character, wearing powdered hair, etc., while the little lady may wear a puffed frock of satin, white wig and patches. A Jirikisha, pulled by a coolie and carrying a dainty geisha, is a novel notion, the Japanese maiden distributing favors from baskets carried on her attendants' shoulders.

Another attractive way of giving the children their presents is to distribute them out of a gigantic basket composed apparently of flowers; the huge, high handle, quite 7 to 10 feet high, is entwined with creepers and flowers, beneath which hang bright lights, electric lamps or colored Japanese lanterns; some fairy dolls nestle amongst the flowers (the lights shining on their glittering vestments), keeping guard, as it were, over the treasures in the depths of the basket below.

NEW COLLAR SETS.

New collar and cuff sets have the cuffs as well as the collar with a stiff underpiece. This is as deep as the upper side and buttons once at the lower edge. The turnovers to both collars and cuffs are broad, of butcher's linen and embroidered with a fine flow in different designs. The stiff underpiece obviates the necessity of wearing an under collar, and in the cuffs holds the sleeve of the waist smooth.